

Message Text

SECRET

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15
ORIGIN PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

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----- 096184

P 022334Z SEP 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
INFO SECDEF PRIORITY
JCS PRIORITY
CINCUSNAVEUR PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 218371

E.O. 11652: GDS 31 DEC 82

TAGS: PFOR, MMOL, PGOV, UR

SUBJECT: COLLISION WITH SOVIET SUBMARINE

REF: USDAO MOSCOW 011149Z SEPT 76.

1. IN RESPONSE TO MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE USSR
DIPLOMATIC NOTE NR 52, YOU SHOULD MAKE THE FOLLOWING REPLY.
QUOTE: THE EMBASSY OF THE USA PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO
THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE USSR AND CONSIDERS
IT NECESSARY TO REPLY TO DIPLOMATIC NOTE NUMBER 52 RECEIVED
ON 1 SEPTEMBER 1976. THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT DOES NOT
AGREE WITH THE STATEMENTS AND CONCLUSIONS SET FORTH IN YOUR
DIPLOMATIC NOTE. BASED ON CURRENT INFORMATION, A SOVIET
SUBMARINE ON THE AFTERNOON OF 28 AUGUST 1976 IN THE CENTRAL
MEDITERRANEAN WHILE MANEUVERING CLOSE TO THE SURFACE OF THE
WATER FIRST ATTEMPTED TO OVERTAKE USS VOGUE, HULL NUMBER

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1047, CLOSE ABOARD TO PORT AND THEN, WHEN ABEAM OF VOGUE,

IMPRUDENTLY TURNED TO STARBOARD STRIKING THE US NAVAL SHIP
ON HER PORT QUARTER. THE ACTIONS OF THE SOVIET SUBMARINE
PRIOR TO THE COLLISION ARE CONSIDERED TO BE DANGEROUS,
UNSEAMANLIKE AND WERE THE PRIMARY CAUSE OF THE COLLISION.
THE US NAVY IS CONDUCTING A FURTHER INVESTIGATION INTO THIS
COLLISION AND IS PREPARED TO EXCHANGE WITH THE SOVIET NAVY
FACTS CONCERNING THE AFOREMENTIONED COLLISION WITH A VIEW

TOWARD AVOIDING SIMILAR OCCURRENCES IN THE FUTURE.
UNQUOTE.

2. FYI: SUBJECT COLLISION IS NOT CONSIDERED TO FALL
WITHIN PURVIEW OF INCIDENTS AT SEA. SUBMARINE WAS IN A
SUBMERGED CONDITION THROUGHOUT THE INCIDENT. ESTABLISHED
INCIDENTS AT SEA PROCEDURES WERE DESIGNED TO ADDRESS
SHIPS OPERATING ON THE SURFACE ONLY. END FYI. KISSINGER

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NNN

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